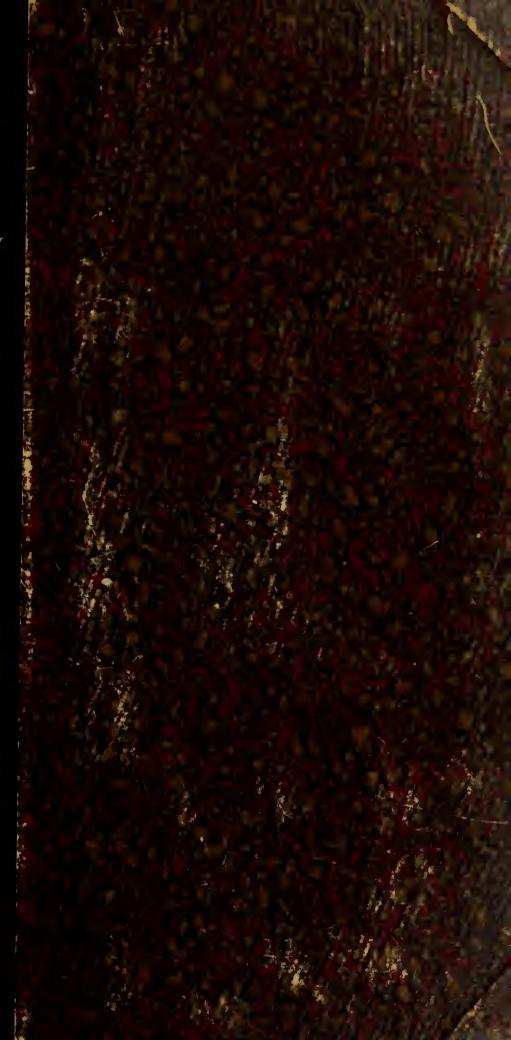
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How to Found a Library in Hillsdale, Michigan

Library Science B. L. S.

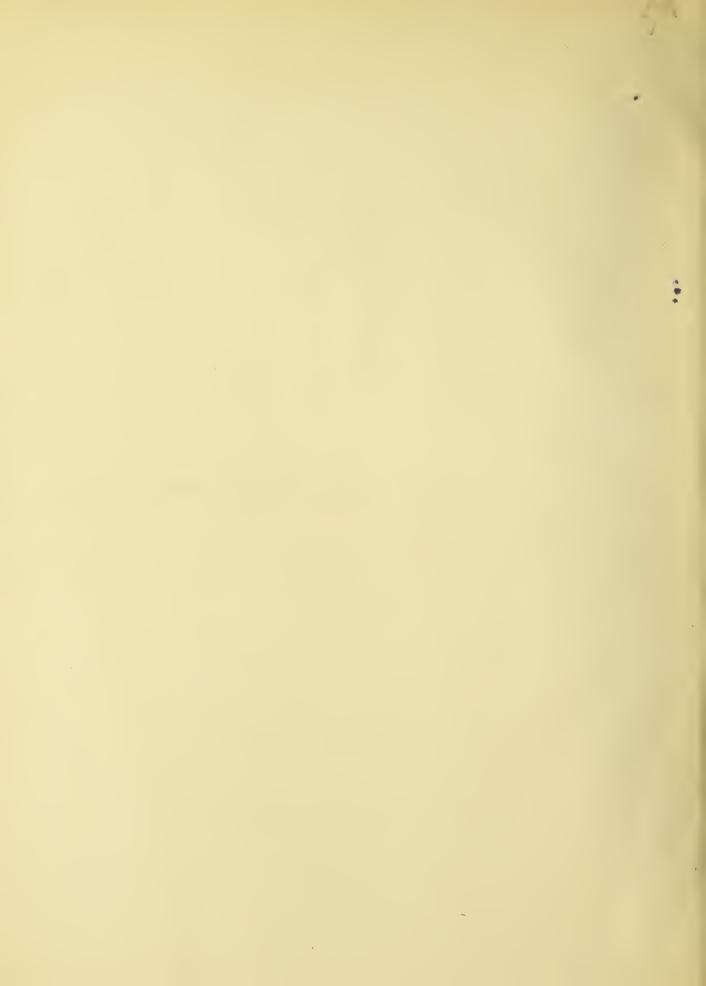
1902



UNIVERSITY OF







HOW TO FOUND A LIBRARY IN HILLSDALE MICHIGAN

by

JENNIE ALICE HULCE

THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

IN THE STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

in the

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1902

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Jennie alice Hulce

ENTITLED How to found a library

in Hillsdale, Michigan

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

or Bachelor of Library Science

Natharine R. Sharp

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY DURNER

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The following paper is based upon peculiar local conditions, and its object is to make suggestions that may be helpful in establishing a library in Hillsdale as soon as people become interested enough to start one or later when the bequest of the late C.T.Mitchell shall furnish more funds and a permanent home for the library. A library is an important educational factor, and unless plans are carefully considered the character of its work may be entirely changed and its full function fail to be performed.

SITUATION OF TOWN.

Michigan, one of the five states formed from the Northwest
Territory, established under the wise ordinance which declared
that "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to
good government and happiness, school and means of education
shall forever be encouraged." The state has never been backward in educationallines and early took up library work in
connection with its school system rather than in the free
public library form. Michigan was the first state to incorporate into its constitution provision for libraries as a part
of its educational system. Progress has been slow, but there is
now a forward movement. With an intelligent people and favorable laws the final success is assured.

Hillsdale is the county seat of Millsdale county, one of the earlier of the southern counties to be settled. It is situated near the center of the southern tier of counties



about 180 miles east of Chicago and 90 miles from Detroit. he county is entirely agricultural. While it is not directly in the fruit belt, it shares part of its advantages and raises temperate fruits of all kinds in abundance for the home demand.

The early settlers were a quiet class of farmers, coming from the East, mostly from New York, and there is little of the foreign element in the population.

POPULATION AND MANUFACTURES OF THE CITY.

The city has not changed materially in size for many years, except that the last census showed a slight decrease in the population, which now is about five thousand. Buring the last year there has been a business awarening. A Business Men's Association has been looking out for new enterprises and offering inducements to manufacturing firms, to establish their factories in the city . The Scowden-Blanchard Co., shoe manufacturers, moved in from Springfield. Ohio. They have jut up a building 50 x 100 feet, three stories high, and are now carring on a good business. The Hillsdale Screen Co. have recently built a large addition to their factory, making it one of the largest in the country. The Alano Gasoline Engine Co. removed to Hillsdale from Angola early last surner, and are occurying a large brick building temporarily and making arrangements to build. Along the long established manufacturing interests The Worthing and Alger Fur Coat Co. is of importance. This business has furnished employment to many for several years and has been carried on very successfully. There are two flour mills which have contributed to the prosperty of the town.



PAILEGADS.

The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad is the only one running through the city. It has a junction with roads running east and west, north and south. There are no electric roads but three applications for these lines have been before the City Council within a year.

CHARACTER OF PEOPLE.

The inhabitants are largely of the permanent class whose business interests have long been identified with the town. They are intelligent and interested in everything looking toward naterial progress. For over thirty years— Eillsdale College has helped in moulding the character of the people and building up the town. The College is situated on a hill at the north side of the city. Through the co-operation of College and tours people good lecture courses and entertainments have been secured, so that the citizens have enjoyed nany advantages not available in other towns of the same size.

Rillsdale has been a quiet and desirable hold for people of moderate means, who enjoy pleasant surroundings. It remains to be seen what effect the new manufacturing establishments will have upon the class of people and the spirit of the place.

COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Willsdale College has a library of nearly ten thousand volumes, largely reference. The earliest collection was theological in character and there are many volumes of little practical use. It has a good supply of periodical literature and within the last few years has added many of the best and latest reference books, so it is quite well equipped for its work. Little fiction is found on its shelves and almost none



of themost recent works. The students pay a small fee of one dollar a term for the use of the library which is open during the day and until eight o'clock in the evening. Members of the Woman's clubs and Guilds have also been allowed to use books and take then out for home use. Other people desiring information on any particular subject are always gladly allowed its privileges. The use by the general public has never been encouraged, as it would be very inconvenient to have then come freely. The library occupies one end of the second story of the main building of the college and some of the rooms near are recitation rooms. The location is not at all central. The library has no printed finding list and no complete card catalog, though it is classified.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LIBRARY..

over twenty two years. The total number of volumes reported in March 1902, was \$406, of which 68 had been added within the year. This library occupies a room in a building on the principal stree' and is open Saturday after oon of each week for exchange of books. It is governed by a board of fifteen dicertors with the officers elected from their number. They started with a capital stock of one thousand dollars divided into two hundred shares of five dollars each. Members must become share holders and pay an annual fee of one dollar per year. Entertainments are given occasionally to raise funds. The books are largely fiction as shown by its catalog. Its scope is entirely circulating.



PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY.

The public school has a library of aver one thousand volumes, kept for use of the schools alone. This is well selected for high school work, and contains works on history, literature, biography, travel, reference books, science, civics, and standard fiction. The catalog is printed and the books kept in cases in the school building, which is located near the south end of town. The three libraries have distinct fields and know little about the work of the others. Only a few of the people of the town are reached by any or all of them.

There are twelve or more organized women's clubs or guilds besides the five literary societies of the college. Most of these meet at least once in two weeks, some of them every week. A federation of women's clubs of the city has been formed during the winter and any movement which enlists their sympathy and united support will have a strong ally. They are just beginning to feel the need of establishing a club house for boys where a good social time can be had without recourse to the streets or saloons. They have appointed a committee to. see what can be done and the suggestion that a public library would have such work as one of its functions, with their cooveration, has been made to so e members of the committee. The members of these clubs have books of their own and can borrow from private libraries but they feel the need of some new power in the community. Conditions are favorable in many respects for the founding of a library irrediately. This might be done in temporary quarters and later noved into its new hole.



One of the librarians says : "The way to start a library is to hale a beginning". A public spirited citizen, C.T. Hitchell, a few years ago recornized that principle, and looked forward to a time not far distant, when the people would be aroused to a more active interest in the Library as an educational factor. Ry the terms of his will his fine house and lot and \$10,000 are given to the city for a free public library. the gift to be made over to the city upon the death of the wife. The money may be used for books or building or any other purpose that the trustees shall determine upon. His primary object seems to have been to make the library helpful to the schools for he further provided that the school board of the city shall act as trustee for this fund when it becomes available. The house is at present occupied by his widow, and the libraries already described are doing the best to meet the needs of the people. The bequest is not so large as to hake the library with its building entirely a lift without asking for the help of the people, so that they may feel that it is their library. PUBLIC LIBPARY LAW.

ies passed in 1877, provides "That the city council of each incorporated cityshall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room for the use and senefit of may the inhabitants of such city, and take a levy not to exceed one mill on the dollar annually on all taxable property in the city, such taxes to be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of said city, and to be known as the "Library Fund."



PAXACION COR LIBRALIES.

In the financial statement of the city for the fiscal year 1901, the amount raised by taxation is given as \$40,469.25 and this divided by the rate of taxation gives \$2,201.258 as the valuation of the property. From this it will be seen that a tax of one mill on a dollar would give \$2,201 each year for the maintenance of the library. This would not leave a very large book fund when all the other necessary expenses were met.

GOVERNING ROARD.

As to the government of the library, the state law provides that "when a city council shall have decided to establish and maintain a jublic library and reading room under the act, the mayor of such city shall with the approval of the city council proceed to appoint a board of nine directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office, and not more than one nember of the city council shall be at any time a member of said heard. "If the law and the terms of the bequest are compared it will be seen ' that the five members of the school board will necessarily be persons whom the mayor should appoint on the library board. This eught not to be detrimental in any way to the best interests of the library and of the schools and should help forward the co-operation of the two, something to be much desired. This board has power to purchase for lease grounds, to occupy, lease or erect an appropriate building or buildings for the use of said library." Thus a body can be immediately created who will have full power to make changes in the buildingpurchase



books and fittings, and employ a librarian.

AROUSING INTEREST.

tablishment of a public library is the bequest. People are waiting for that to come before they make any effort to have a library. They fail to realize that a start can be made in rented rooms, and that the experience gained may be of the greatest value when the permanent home is ready. This apathy must be over come and public interest aroused before a library will be established.

In Hillsdale the best agency for that purpose is, without doubt, the Federation of Women's Clubs. They are already interested in a club room for boysand only need to have the real benefits of a public library presented to them, to be come active in its establishment. Their membership consists of the vives and daughters of the leading business and professional man as well as those of less influence. Through their committee an appeal can be made to many different interests.

After the proposal that they unite to work for a public library has been thoroughly discussed by the separate clubs and a plan of action decided upon, the city Federation can plan for a public mass meeting to reach the people.

Preparatory to the meeting articles should be written for each of the newspapers, candidly and enthusiastically presenting the benefitswhich a town receives from a public library. Care should be taken to have the subject fully discussed. Special stress should be laid upon the educational function of a library as supplementary to the public schools, from which 90 per cent of the pupils in Michigan, go out before they enter



the ninth grade. The other ben fits in furnishing pleasant and profitable have reading, in halping in the study of subjects by the clubs, in working with the school itself, in the tendency that good reading has to elevate the morals, and in the training for citizenship to be acquired from books, should all be stated. It would be well to show how much of knowledge comes from books and reading, all the 'nowledge of people living a century ago or more all the latest discoveries in science and art, all the world of other people's thought and imagination.

It science the reader sees with the trained eye of the scientist, it poetry, he feels the pure emotions of the poet, in literature, he lives along the scenes describe. His life is broadened by the contact with the deeper, cultured souls.

Visits to the schools and short talks to the children about the value and use of books, and the chance for helpfulness in them will also influence many who would be reached in no other way.

The meeting should be announced in the papers, in the schools and churches. The pastors of the churches may help the movement by briefly stating their opinions as to the help-fulness of a library. Circumstances would determine whether a speaker should be secured from some other town or whether the meeting should be addressed by the mayor, the sup't of the high school, the president of the college, or any other people especially fitted to tell of the work of libraries and the advantages to the community. Coldwater is the home of the president of the library commission of Michigan, and as that is near he might be secured and two meetings held if thought



necessary. The speakers should be enthrelastic believer, in the cause they advocate and should have personal knowledge of its usefulness. It these meetings the leading objections to a library should be met and answered.

The next step is to draw up and circulate a petition addressed to the mayor and city council asking them to take immediate action to establish a library. The persons who circulate this petition should have tact, and know how to approach prople, and be informed about libraries. Everybody should be asked to sign the petition as some would feel slighted if not asked. The success of the library when once secured depends upon the help it can give to the common people.

Meanwhile the friends of the movement will try to use tactful means to influence a favorable decision from the council. If a suitable building for the purpose can be had, in a good location, that fact will prove helpful. The Women's Library Association could give a great impetus to the movement by offering their books as a nucleus for the future library. Gifts of money and books from individuals should be encouraged, and an effort made to secure such help.

LOCATION OF HOME.

The location of the house and lot in question is very good. It is one block from the post office and from the corner of the public square on which stands a fine, new court house. It is a little over a block from three churches and one block from the principal business street, between the high school and college but nearer to the former. This is very desirable for the need is greater for its use in connection with the



public schools The lot is on the corner of Manning and McCollum streets, on high ground, and is large.over 80 feet wide and 250 feet long. The house is back from the street about fifty feet and the wing which could be fitted up for a storage of books could be indefinitely extended to the west. There is room for extension in any direction.

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE.

The pictures and plans will give an idea of the principle features of the house. The main part of the building is 40 x 45 feet, or nearly square, with two full stories and and attic. The house is built of brick, is substantial and well kept up. There is also a wing 27 feet square. The entrance is through a hall 9 feet wide and 38 feet deep in the back part of which is a stair way slightly winding. The rooms of the first floor are ten feet high, well lighted for a dwelling house with electric lights for artificial lighting and heated with hot a r. There is a basement underneath the whole, containing the Jurnace. This comes above the ground for about three feet, and has small windows. It would answer for storage somewhat. The lower floor has four large rooms opening into the hall and a kitchen, pantry and woodshed in the wing. The second floor also has four large rooms in the main part and three smaller ones in the wing, all opening into the hall. These rooms are nine feet high. PRELIMINARY TO CHANGE OF BUILDING.

Before forming definite plans for the alteration of the building a competent architect should examine it and the foundations to determine what changes can be made, and in what





View of house.





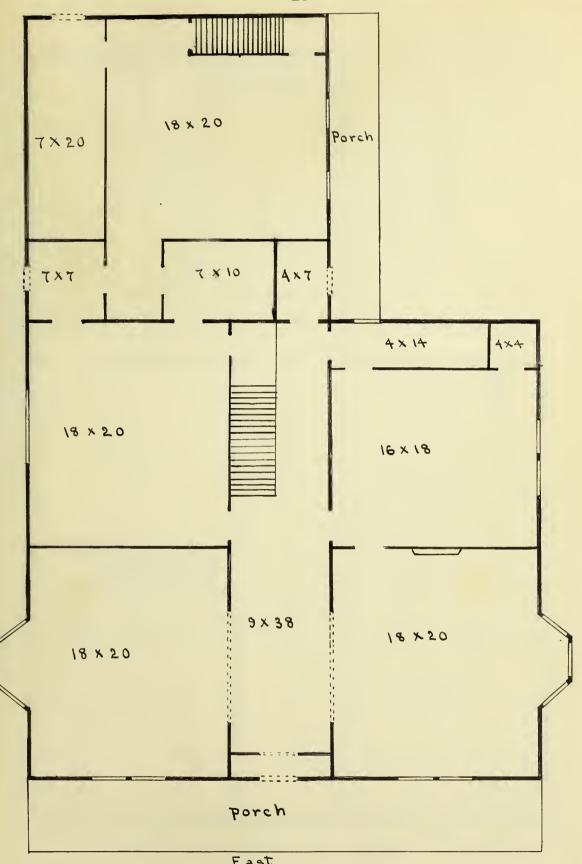
Front view of house.





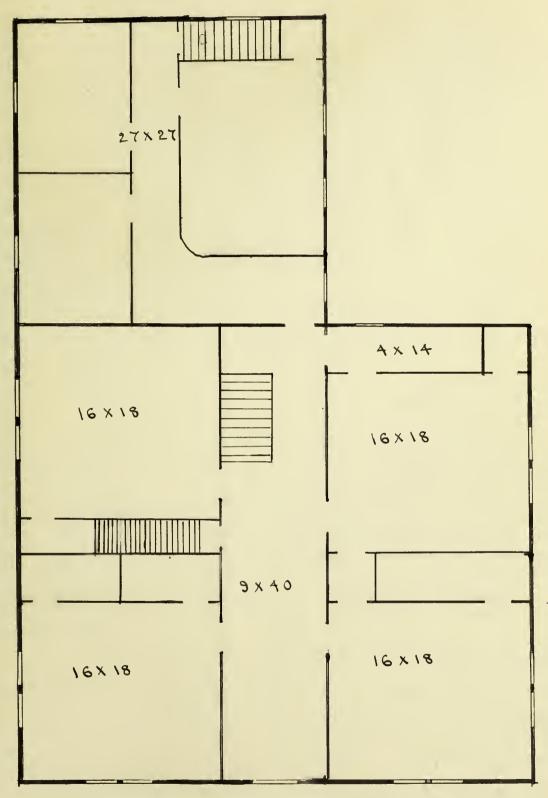
View of east and south sides of house





East First floor plan of house. Manning Street.





Second floor plan of house.



ways the foundation cambe strengthened. He should also take a probable estimate as to the cost. If the city has no public library before that time not nore than half the bequest money should be used in changing the building and getting the furniture and fittings. It would be viser to raise some money for the building in the way provided by law, for the erection of public buildings. At least \$5,000 should be left for the purchase of books and then the library could start with hardly more than 3,000 volumes with possibly a little money in reserve for books, which are demanded, and which had no place in the first order. If the Women's Library Association turned its books over to the care of the public library this would be a good collection.

needs of a library, some of their number should visit other libraries near, and observe the work done in them, the buildings and the equipment. Then they can clearly make known their wants. It would be better to visit small libraries that were doing good work and to adopt their nethods, if they seemed good, than to try the methods of the very large city libraries.

The success of the library depends largely upon the ability of the librarian. Some of the necessary qualifications are tact, courtesy, energy, executive ability, broad scholar—ship and training. In the shall library the personality of the librarian seems to pervade the library and a spirit of cheerful helpfulness on her part makes the library attractive. That rare quality, that is called tact, she needs in large meas—



ure; for this, with courtesy, helps to make people feel at home and makesthem confortable. In this way it increases the help-fulness of the library to the community. Executive ability is certainly requisite for the chief officer of the library. The ability to plan wisely and to execute prolytly those plans, to make the most of what there is, to get the most for what is spent, to manage other people without their knowledge it, is greatly to be desired. Parmestness, enthusiasm, and good judgment, as wellas energy, are necessary to push forward the various lines of work. These need to be wisely directed in order to accomplish the best results with least waste of energy.

Library training helps to give this wise direction.

A high standard of scholarship is required for entrance to the training schools, and that standard is maintained throughout the course. Library work dehands that a person be really a socialist in all lines that he may give intelligent direction to readers with different interests. All knowledge is useful to the librarian. The practical technial work of the library schools in all departments of library work, makes all the little details easy and in this way saves time to be devoted to giving personal help to readers. The schools also teach better nethods of work and give information as to the ways of making the knowledge of the books available to those unused to the aids. Reference books are carefully studied and a knowledge of their contents helps in answering quickly many troublesome questions that are brought to the library.

If possible the librarian should be chosen before the books are ordered or the plans for the building are tade.

There are certain principles of library construction, that the



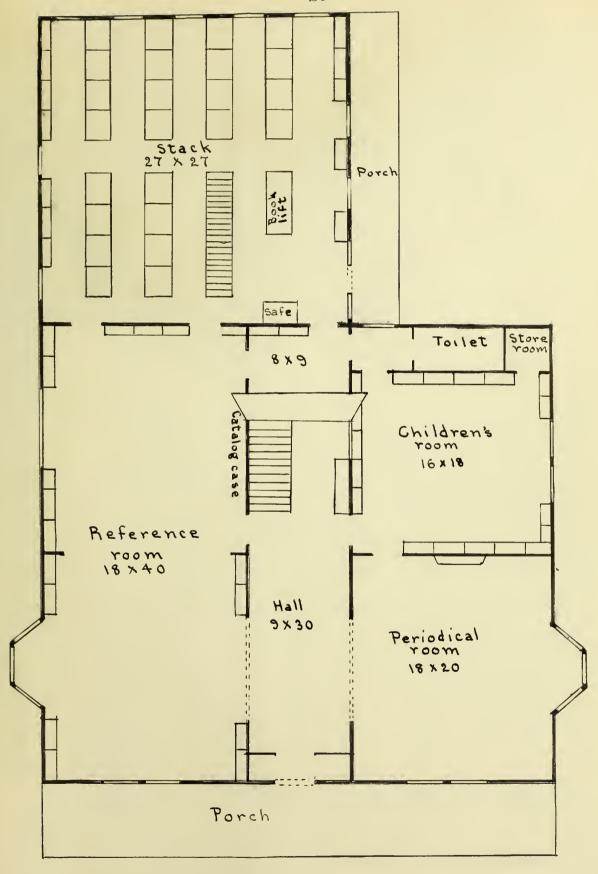
librarian should know, which determine the best arrangment of rooms for convenience and economy of service. Her familiarity with library fittings also e ables her to make suggestions in regard to them. She can be helpful in ordering supplies.

The selection and ordering of books—can be partially delegated to her. When the books are received, the necessary library records can be made and the books can be made ready for use, so that there will be nothing to hinder an early opening of the library. If the finds will not permit of the employable of a trained librarian or it was thought—best to employ some one inexperienced, the services of an organizer should be secured to gut the library in running order and to teach the librarian the best method of doing things.

CHANGES IN THE BUILDING.

admit of wall shelving in the main part. At 1 ast that must be planned for. If floor cases are ever needed the basement would be open for the necessary foundations to be put in. The wire for table lamps and other electric lights can be brought up through the floor. On the south side of the building the two large rooms, 18 x 20 feet each, can be thrown together by cutting an arch and can be made into a large reference room. This room would accormodate twenty-five or thiry readers. There are two doors opening from this which will give access to the books stored in the wing. The stairway ascends so as to leave a space in the back part of the hall and here the delivery desk can be placed so that it will be as near the center of everything as possible and thus make supervision easy. This should be made long enough to extend into the corner of the





Plan of library.



reference room and have a window opening for light and for convenience of readers. The door already there would allow an easy access from the desk to the catalog in the reference room. The door opening from the wing upon the porch should be made tostly of glass and should be throughout with panels of glass to help in furnishing light to the loan lesk. The room in the northwest corner 16 x 18 feet is where it can be readily supervised by putting in a delivery window and also another one in the partition. This will have a good children's room. The children's books should be shelved here.

The periodical room should be easily accessable from the street. The room in the northeast corner can be fatted up for that purpose. The fire place which is now there can be left for both use and ormanent. The directors can have a pleasant room in the southeast corner of the second floor. The other rooms can be fitted up for other purposes. The one over the children's room can be used for the boys and arrangements can be used to provide games and interesting reading which will help to accomplish the work of keeping them off the streets and out of the saloons. One room can be used for consisted petings for the women's clubs and other associations of the city. This room can be kept for the use of the women alone. If such a room for the nen was found to be needed, the other room could be taken for that purpose.

In the wing, all the partitions can be removed, the foundations can be made strong and floor cases can be put in.

This leaves no special room for the first floor for work. That would have to be done in a corner of the stacks or behind the



loan dosk. The plans should be made for two stories of stacks, though only one would—need—to be fitted out intedister. A service elevator—or book lift should be put in to facilate the moving of the books from the basem at to the main floor and ultimately to the second floor. Straight stairways computing the different floors should be made—a indicated in the diagram of library. The second story rooms can be used for work and storage. The wing would need to be greatly remodeled for rant of it is not a woodshed and not finished off. The windows can be put in so as to come opposite the aisles between the cases, and with the windows at the side they would supply abundant light.

STORAGE CAPACITY.

The arrangement of floor cases indicated on the plan of the library would shelve more than eleven thousand volumes and the available wall space would increase the capacity of one story of the stack to more than thirteen thousand volumes,

The reference room would shelve more than one thousand and the children's room nearly as many. A case can be placed in the hall in which any books, which were new or to which the librarian wished to call especial attention, could be put. This plan allows for several years growth before fitting up the should story. As the city will never probably make very rapid growth, a library which can be kept in the building would always be sufficient for the needs of the people. If the books do accumulate beyond its capacity, without doubt the funds for a new building could be obtained.



FURILIPUTE AND A LITERING .

After the milding is lineshed the for interested books are a cessary to make everytims con let . A large ant of the furniture for a library call be sought to better advantage of local dealers or ordered through them of manufacturing firms who do not make a specialty of library supplies. The catalog of such finds as happ of Grand Parids, and There, Walker & Co., of Puskegon, Mich. can be obtained, and a s lockion can be hade from them. Tables of different sizes can be ord red; a convenient size is 3 by 5 feet; 31 1/2 inches high. Then large tables are required they can be made by placing these and to end. Tables of nearly the same size but varying h ights can be procured for the children's room. The chairs should be of differ on kinks and different heights so as to b. confortable to people of different sizes. A few rocking chairs Lake a library inviting, and arm chairs are so etimes rostful. Rent wood chairs are very desirable for libraries. Desks will be needed for the workers who have charr of the library. The periodical racks or cases can be obtained from severa. firms or cases that would answer the purpose can be made by the carpenters. A book truck will save great labor in novi g books and is really indispensable. A good floor covering is corticine. Thile it is expensive at first it wears long enough to make it pay. It helps to deaden the sound of moving about.

For the book room and wall shelving, cases of wood fitted to the spaces can be made. The shelves can be made adjustable by means of holes and pegs. From experience in using it has been found that shelves one inch thick should not be



made more than there inches long, in order that there should be no sagine. In the room riven for storage, 27 feet square, case, 10 5/6 feet long only ft. 8 in. high would fit into the space best. The double cases take up twenty-eight inches at the bottom. There should be a ledge about three feet from the floor. Above this the distance between the shelves should be ten inches clear and below to suit. Ledges may be put only on alternate cases. Each case should have two faces with four tiers of shelves centaining eight shelves each. The up-rights for the cases should be two inches thick and the base four inches high. The aisles between cases—should be made three feet wide.

If steel stacks are desired, there are several good
fints that would be glad to correspond with the directors
and to give torks. The best known firms are A.R. W.F. Westervelt,
102 Chambers Street M.Y. who sell the Stikeman patent; Shead
& Co. Jersey City, F.J. who have the Green patent; The Art
Metal Construction Co., Jakestown, M.Y., Makers of the Fenton
shalling also carrying other library fittings; and the Library
Tureau, Plaka ison St., Chicago, Ill. The latter firm makes
a specialty of library fittings and Library supplies of every
kind. Every thing they cell is good and some of the supplies
cannot be secured elsewhere, but their prices are high and
honey can often be saved by ordering of other firms. Their
catalog will be sent on application and contains descriptions
and prices of all the fittings needed in a well equipped library.
SUGGESTICNS FOR HELP IN SELECTING MODES.

In selecting books, the character of the people, the



varied industries of the box mound is considered, an the books which would be holyful to the greater runber should be bourht. The kind of books in the other libraries should also be ta en into consideration for it is unwise to duplicate books which are little used. The proportion of books in the dufferent classes should be decided upon. In the first purchase the stanlard reference books should be included and a large runbor of children's books. The standard authors should be bourn't well printed editions. In natural science, social and political acionees, history and the useful arts, the latest contions chould be obtained. After the lists have been go: thted and a sel o'ion has been made, one of the people of the city whos realing or study has been along the lines of the books selected chould be acted to examine the lists and to offer suggestions. The list of books given below would be found helpful in selecting and ordering books.

AIDS IN TOOK SELECTION.

Baker and Poylor Co., (M.Y.) Library List of books. We charge.

Dana, John Cotton. A library primer, 1900.

ווליביין הייטורי איינאיילי ג'ב.00.

Layroldt, Irr. Augusta H.A. Ilos. George.

Pooks & r girls and woman and 'h ir aluba.

Library Bureau. \$1.0..

volumes for a public library. No charge.

Vew York-State Library (Albany) Fifty best books for a village library. (and val).



velves for a polular litrage Covit. No carro.

"secondin- Proe library commission. Books on science and engineering.

"ochange."

Suggestive list of books for small library.1902.

No charge.

"isconsin- Public instruction, Depart t of. List of books or high schools libraries of Tisconsin. 10 \$.

List of books for township libraries for the state of Wisconsin.

FOR CHILDREN.

Hardy, C.E. somp. 500 books for the young. 1892. Scribner 50 \$

Sargent, John F. Reading for the young and supplement. New ed.

Library Bureau \$1.50

Then the building is completed and the furniture is in place, when the supplies and books have come, when the librarian has been chosen, and is in charge, the library have be said to be established. Its success depends upon the librarian and the people working together. Both need to recognize their responsibility. The library is common property where people of all classes meet on an equality to get that which will nost enrich their lives. It is the great culture center of the contamity. It is to be hoped that a spublic library hay soon be established in Hillsdal, that he hitchell's generous gift may be used to carry out his coblect wishes and that the hibrary hay be established upon broad principles so as to be of the greatest value to the contamity.

THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.

READING LIST.

America hibrary Association. comp.

Blueln r. O car.

(The) planning of shall library buildings. (See Public libraries 1898 3 : 3-4, 39-41, 75-76, 115-17, 201-2, 239-40, 283-5, 335-7, 375-6.)

Carr, 'enry J.

Fintures, Purniture and Sittings. (See U.S.-Education.

Bureau of, P pera prepared for the American

library association, 1893. 1896. p. 733-43.)

Dana, John Cotton.

Library Primer. 1900. p 1-68.

Dewey. Lelvil

Capacity of book stacks. (See Public libraries. 1902, 7: 28- 29.)

Fletcher, William Isaac.

Public li rarios in Artrica. 1894. p 20-99.

Gre M. Romand R.

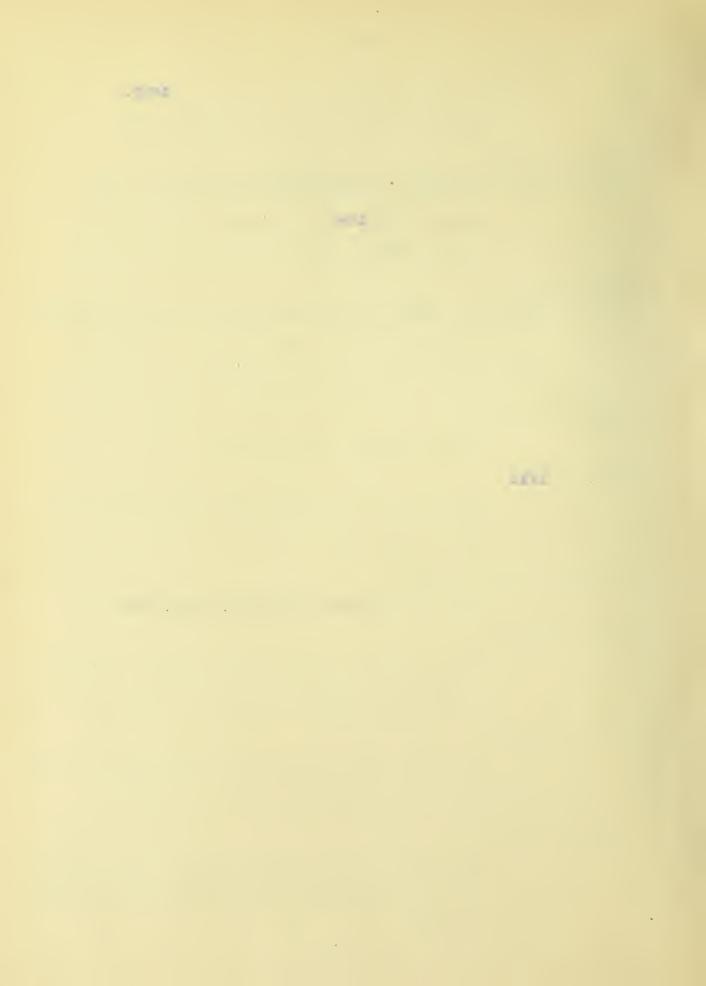
Plannin and construction of library buildings (Set Library journal, 1900, 25: 677-83.)

Harrison, Robert.

Selection and acquisition of books for a library. (See Library journal, 1877. 2: 145-8.)

Helry, W.E.

Some thoughts on the establishment and control of a public library. (See Library journal, 1900, 25:43-47.)



Hill. 'rail' .

hibrary wildings - 10 m remarks. (3 milrory journal. 189... 34: 1.3-69.)

Jackson, Anda .

Transforting a duelling few into a library. (See Library journal, 1900. 25: 105-12.)

Lathron, Olive ..

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